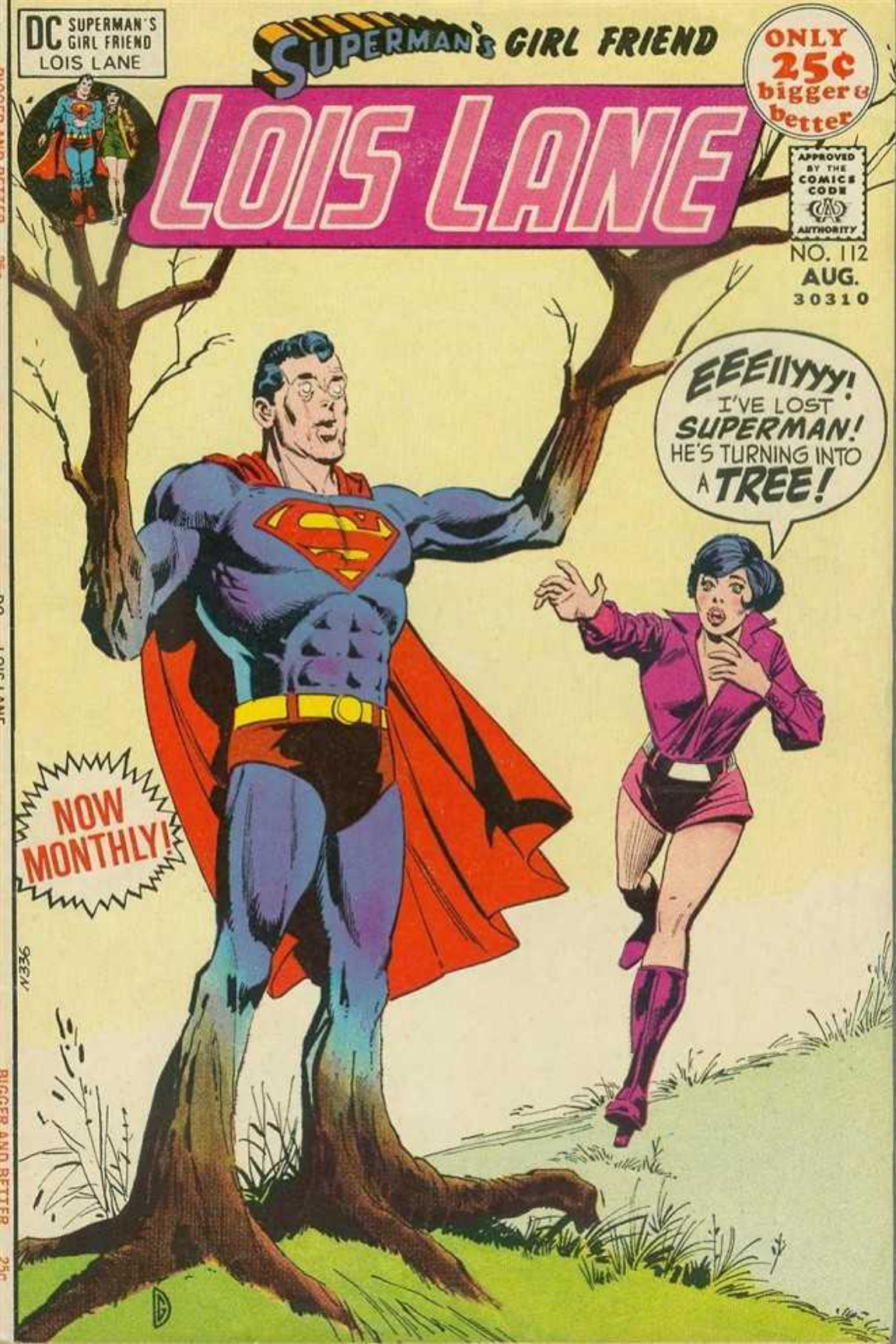
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SOMETIMES, A PLANET CAN DIE OF LONELINESS...
A HIGHLY ADVANCED RACE, THE TZOLS, ABANDONED THIS WORLD BECAUSE OF THEIR OVER-POPULATION... AND MIGRATED TO A MUCH LARGER PLANET!
BUT NOW IT SEEMS A STRANGE BLIGHT HAS WIPED OUT ALL THIS GLOBE'S PLANT LIFE!

STRANGE... NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF ANY PARASITE OR DISEASE THAT MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WILTING! IT'S AS THOUGH THE PLANTS MISSED THE TZOLS!

MY X-RAY VISION SHOWS NOTHING BUT HEALTHY MINERALS HERE, MUCH LIKE EARTH SOIL! THERE'S JUST NO REASON FOR THESE TREES TO BE DEAD!
SUPERMAN...

THE ACTION ACE WHIRLS AROUND TO FACE...
LOIS!? HOW IN THE UNIVERSE DID YOU GET HERE? EARTH IS IN ANOTHER STAR SYSTEM!
SCRIPT: CARY BATES
PENCILS: WERNER ROTH
INKS: VINCE COLLETTA
N-204

HOW CAN

LOIS LANE

BE ON THIS DISTANT WORLD? AND WHY IS SHE NEARLY COVERED WITH VERDURE? SUPERMAN WON'T FIND ALL THE ANSWERS YET... NOT UNTIL...

"A TREE GROWS IN METROPOLIS!"

SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND LOIS LANE. No. 112. August, 1971. Published monthly, (semi-monthly Sept.) by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Sts., Sparta, Ill. 62286. EDITORIAL, EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 909 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. E. Nelson Bridwell, Editor. Carmine Infantino, Editorial Director. Sol Harrison, Production Manager. Ed Lotacher, Circulation Director. Second Class Postage Paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. No subscriptions. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 41 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017. Copyright © National Periodical Publications, Inc., 1971. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred.

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AS SUPERMAN MOVES IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK...
WHEW! I MUST MISS LOIS MORE THAN I THOUGHT! MY IMAGINATION IS PLAYING TRICKS WITH ME! IT'S JUST ANOTHER TREE I SAW!
BUT WAIT... THIS ONE'S STILL ALIVE!
WAS IT SUPERMAN'S IMAGINATION...OR...SOMEONE ELSE'S?
HMMM... CHANCES ARE THIS SPECIMEN WILL DIE LIKE THE REST IF I LEAVE IT HERE!
AND I'VE VOWED TO PRESERVE ALL FORMS OF LIFE WHEREVER POSSIBLE...
SO...
BACK TO EARTH IT GOES FOR A TRANSPLANT INTO METROPOLIS SOIL! AT LEAST THERE, THE TREE WILL HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL!
I'LL TAKE A SHORT-CUT THROUGH HYPER-SPACE. SO WE'LL ARRIVE HOME BEFORE THE EXTREMES OF OUTER SPACE CAN HARM IT!
2

ONLY A FEW EYEBLINKS LATER, AFTER ARRIVING ON EARTH...
THE TREE SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE THRIVING HERE IN METROPOLIS PARK!
TOMORROW I'LL NOTIFY THE METRO RESEARCH INSTITUTE... THEIR SCIENTISTS WILL BE ANXIOUS TO EXAMINE THIS ALIEN LIFE!
BUT AS SUPERMAN LEAVES...
...THE PLANT SEEMS TO BEND BACKWARD EVER SO SLIGHTLY, AS IF TO WATCH THE MAN OF STEEL LEAP INTO THE SKY!
NEXT DAY...
THIS SPECIMEN IS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING! DURING ALL MY YEARS IN BOTANY, I'VE NEVER SEEN A GROWTH SO BEAUTIFUL!
YES, YES! IT HAS A STRANGELY ALLURING QUALITY IMPOSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE! I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF IT!
METRO RESEARCH
WHAT A HEADLINE... "SCIENTISTS FALL FOR FREAK TREE FROM OUTER SPACE!"
SUPERMAN'S BROUGHT BACK SOME STRANGE LIFE-FORMS FROM OTHER PLANETS BEFORE, BUT THIS TIME HE OUTDID HIMSELF!
ALL THESE MEN ARE MAKING SUCH A FUSS, YOU'D THINK IT WAS SOPHIA LOREN!
MY EDITOR, PERRY WHITE, WANTS A PICTURE OF THE TREE FOR TONIGHT'S DAILY PLANET EDITION... AND THEN I'LL BE GLAD TO MOVE ON TO OTHER ASSIGNMENTS!
FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL VERY UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND THIS THING!
3

LATE THAT NIGHT, AS SUPERMAN ESCORTS HIS SWEETHEART...
I REALLY ENJOYED THAT PLAY WE SAW TONIGHT!
ME, TOO, LOIS! I WISH I HAD TIME TO TAKE YOU OUT ON DATES LIKE THIS MORE OFTEN, BUT MY URGENT DUTIES AS A CRIME-FIGHTER...
NO NEED TO EXPLAIN, SUPERMAN, I--
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE WE CHANGING DIRECTION SO SUDDENLY? DID YOU SPOT AN EMERGENCY SOMEWHERE?
LOIS IS ANSWERED ONLY BY SILENCE AND AN INSTINCTIVE FEAR THAT GNAWS AT HER...
SUPERMAN, YOU'RE FLYING DOWN TOWARD METROPOLOUS PARK! NOTHING'S THERE THIS TIME OF NIGHT!
IT COULDN'T BE WHAT I THINK IT IS...IT JUST COULDN'T!
IT IS!!
SOMEHOW, THAT ALIEN TREE HAS SUMMONED HIM!
A POWER NOT KNOWN ON THIS PLANET MESMERIZES BOTH THE SUPER-HERO AND THE FEMALE REPORTER...
MY MIND FEELS STRANGE... LIKE SOME EERIE FORCE IS SURGING THROUGH IT!
MINE, TOO!
4

MY NAME IS RZALIN... AND I LOVE YOU, SUPERMAN! COME TO ME!
YES, RZALIN, I WILL!
GOOD GRIEF!!

THAT ALIEN TREE POSSESSES A... MIND! IT'S SENDING OUT A TELEPATHIC VOICE TO SUPERMAN THAT I CAN "HEAR" TOO!
AND THE VOICE IS UNMISTAKABLY FEMALE!

A MOMENT LATER, THE MAN OF STEEL IS PUTTING HIS SUPER-POWERS TO WORK...
THAT'S SPLENDID, MY LOVE! BE SURE TO MAKE THE MOAT WIDE AND DEEP! I DON'T WANT ANYONE COMING NEAR ME BUT YOU!
GOOD HEAVENS! RZALIN IS NOW GIVING OUT TELEPATHIC COMMANDS... AND SUPERMAN IS OBEYING THEM!

A SUPER-SPEED TRIP TO THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS... AND THE METROPOLIS MARVEL IS BACK IN 8 SECONDS FLAT...
AHH... THAT HOT MOLTEN LAVA YOU COLLECTED FROM AN ACTIVE VOLCANO SHOULD KEEP CURIOUS EARTHLINGS AWAY! AND I CAN ALREADY FEEL THAT DELICIOUS HEAT IN MY ROOTS!
I'VE SEEN JUST ABOUT ENOUGH! THIS HAS GOT TO STOP!

LISTEN TO ME, SUPERMAN! THE TREE MUST HAVE SOME STRANGE SORT OF ALIEN POWER TO DOMINATE YOUR MIND! YOU'VE GOT TO RESIST IT!
DARLING, PLEASE SUBDUE THAT ANNOYING FEMALE AND REMOVE HER FROM MY SIGHT!
NEXT MOMENT, SUPERMAN RENDERS LOIS UNCONSCIOUS WITH A PAINLESS NERVE-PINCH...
I'LL TAKE HER AWAY FROM HERE, RZALIN!
NO, SUPERMAN! I... UHHHHHHH-
NO... NO! LEAVE SUPERMAN ALONE, RZALIN... HE'S MINE ... YOU'RE TRYING TO STEAL HIM AWAY FROM ME...
OHHH... WHAT A RELIEF! THAT HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE I THOUGHT I HAD LAST NIGHT MUST'VE BEEN A NIGHTMARE!
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN! IMAGINE-- SUPERMAN FALLING FOR A FEMALE TREE! HOW RIDICULOUS!
BUT LATER THAT MORNING...
BULLETIN! THE ENTIRE CITY IS PUZZLED BY THE STRANGE TREE IN METROPOLIS PARK, AND WONDERS WHAT KIND OF HOLD IT HAS OVER SUPERMAN!
GULP! I WAS WRONG! THAT WAS NO DREAM!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING!
6

THE WEIRD WORLD OF AURORA

PUT TOGETHER YOUR OWN SCARY SCENES WITH AURORA'S FANTASTIC MONSTER SCENES CUSTOM BUILDER KITS.

WE NEED A GIRL VICTIM FOR THE EXPERIMENT
NO PROBLEM DR.
LAB TABLE
NO ..... PROBLEM... HEH, HEH.
KEEP HER QUIET.
HELP! HELP!
DON'T WORRY THIS IS NEW YORK. NO ONE WILL HELP HER
GIRL VICTIM
BACK IN DR. DEADLY'S DUNGEON. EXPERIMENT STARTS.
IF THIS EXPERIMENT WORKS SHE'LL TURN INTO A...FLY. HEH, HEH.
THAT SOUNDS SO HORRIBLE IT EVEN SCARES A VAMPIRELLA LIKE ME
PENDULUM
HANGING CAGE

SNAP THEM TOGETHER. NO GLUE NEEDED. CREATE YOUR OWN SCARY SCENES. GET VAMPIRELLA, FRANKENSTEIN, DR. DEADLY, GIRL VICTIM, PLUS ALL LAB EQUIPMENT. 8 KITS IN ALL. GET MONSTER SCENES CUSTOM BUILDER KITS FROM

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WILL THE EXPERIMENT SUCCEED? IT'S UP TO YOU WHEN YOU BUILD YOUR MONSTER SCENES CUSTOM BUILDER KITS FROM AURORA

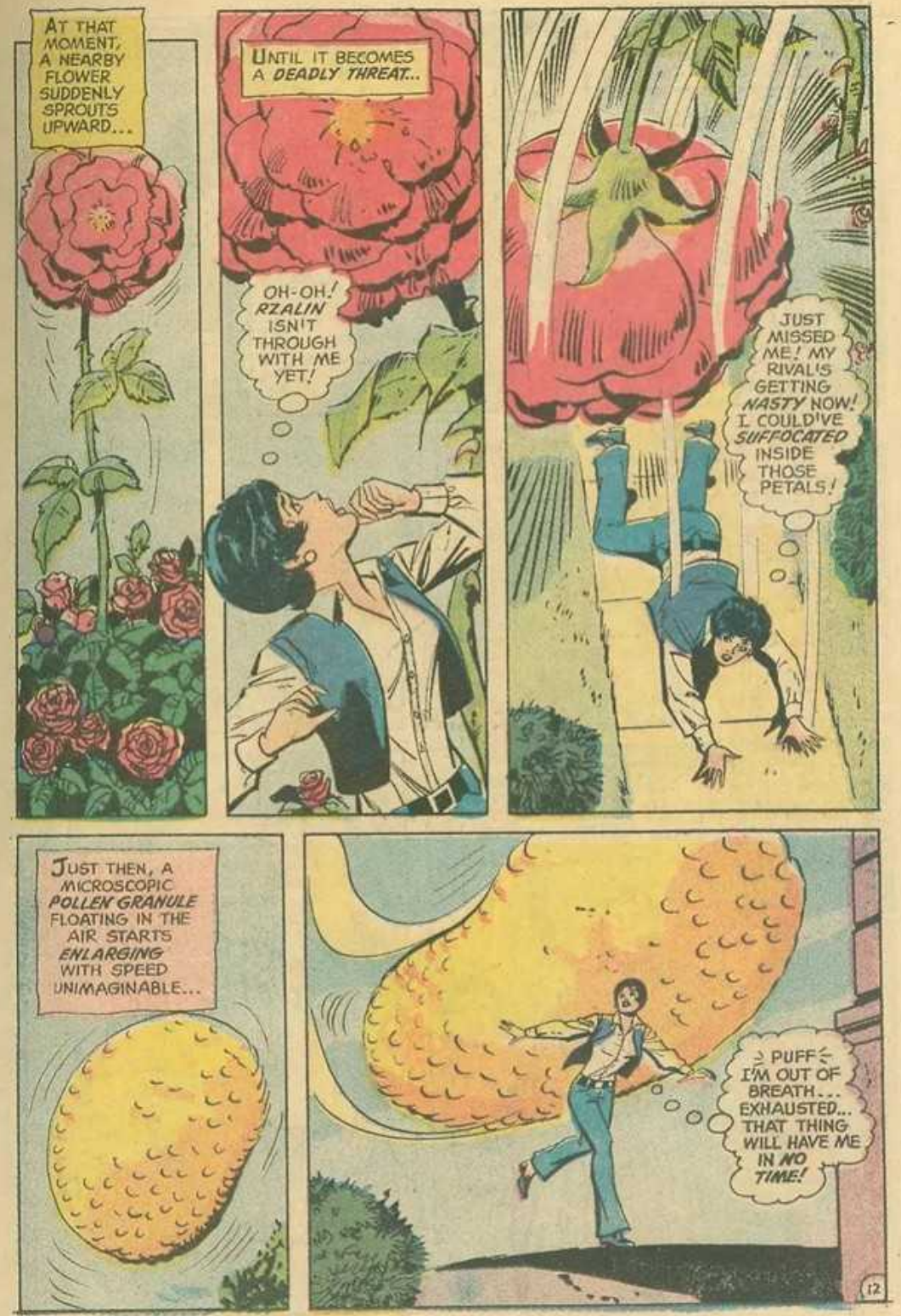
EVERY FEW HOURS, SUPERMAN RETURNS FROM SPACE WITH A DIFFERENT STRANGE MINERAL! HE WILL NOT TALK TO ANYONE... AND SEEMS TO BE IN A ZOMBIE-LIKE TRANCE!
MEANWHILE, THE MAN OF STEEL IS SORELY NEEDED IN METROPOLIS! A MAJOR CRIME WAVE HAS BROKEN OUT ON THE EAST SIDE!
THE THORN HAS BEEN DOING HER BEST... AND THE GUARDIAN HAS BEEN ACTIVE! BUT THEY NEED SUPERMAN'S HELP!
ALL ATTEMPTS TO STUDY THE TREE FOR AN ANSWER HAVE FAILED... BECAUSE OF THE LAVA MOAT SURROUNDING IT!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT! THIS FREAK ALIEN CREATURE HAS THE MIND OF A WOMAN! AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE RIVALS FOR THE SAME MAN!
SOON, ON THE PARK GROUNDS...
I WAS PRETTY GOOD AT POLE-VAULTING IN COLLEGE! I WAS NO CHAMP... BUT GOOD ENOUGH FOR THIS!
AND AS LOIS POLE-VAULTS OVER THE MOAT...
YOU ARE CLEVER, EARTH-WOMAN! BUT THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP THE INEVITABLE!
SOON, SUPERMAN AND I WILL BE THE FOUNDERS OF A NEW RACE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
7

I'VE BEEN SENDING SUPERMAN ALL OVER THE GALAXY TO COLLECT CERTAIN RARE ALIEN ELEMENTS!
WHEN HE FINISHES, I'LL INSTRUCT HIM HOW TO BREW A SPECIAL ELIXIR...
"... AN ELIXIR THAT WILL TRANSFORM HIM INTO ONE OF MY SPECIES..."
"SUPERMAN AND I WILL THEN MATE... AND SEND OUT BILLIONS OF TINY SPORES ALL OVER THIS PLANET..."
"EACH SPORE WILL SOON MAKE CONTACT WITH AN EARTHLING...AND TRANSFORM HIM INTO ONE OF US..."
"EVENTUALLY, EARTH WILL BE ENTIRELY A PLANT PLANET! SUPERMAN AND I SHALL THEN REIGN SUPREME OVER OUR NEW RACE!"
BUT AS RZALIN FINISHES HER STORY...
WHAT ARE YOU SPRINKLING AROUND ME?
A PLANT-FOOD NEUTRALIZER! I STOPPED BY PROF. POTTER'S LAB ON MY WAY HERE! THIS SUBSTANCE ROBS THE GROUND OF ITS PRECIOUS WATER AND MINERALS!
POTTER SAID IT WOULDN'T KILL YOU... BUT IT SHOULD WEAKEN YOU ENOUGH TO BE SUBDUED!
BUT THE NEXT MOMENTS TURN A GLIMMER OF HOPE TO DESPAIR...
GOOD LORD! THE NEUTRALIZER IS HAVING NO EFFECT!
FOOLISH WOMAN! DO YOU THINK I DRAW MY NOURISHMENT FROM THE SOIL LIKE A LOWLY EARTH-PLANT? YOU KILLED THE GRASS, BUT NOT ME!

MORE DESPERATE NOW, LOIS TRIES A NEW TACTIC...
THERE'S ONE THING THAT CAN DESTROY ANY PLANT... FIRE!
NO! I CAN'T BE DESTROYED NOW! NOT WHEN I'M SO CLOSE!
SUPERMAN!
PHWOOOSSH!
DARLING... YOU SAVED ME JUST IN TIME!
NOW FLY TO THE BETA CENTAUR! SYSTEM... WHERE THERE IS ONE MORE ELEMENT YOU WILL NEED! WHEN YOU RETURN WITH IT, WE CAN MAKE THE ELIXIR! AND YOU'LL BE MINE FOREVER!
I'M COUNTING THE MINUTES, MY LOVE!
ONCE AGAIN, RZALIN ORDERS SUPERMAN TO REMOVE LOIS...
HE LEFT ME AT MY APARTMENT WITHOUT SAYING A WORD... AND DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW WHO I AM ≥SOB≤!
I'VE LOST SUPERMAN'S LOVE TO A TREE! THIS IS ALL TOO ABSURD TO BE REALLY HAPPENING! BUT IT IS!
9

THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO STOP RZALIN! MUCH MORE IS AT STAKE NOW THAN MY LOVE-LIFE!
IF HER PLAN SUCCEEDS, HUMAN BEINGS WILL SOON BE EXTINCT!
WAIT A SECOND...RZALIN HAS AWESOME POWERS ... BUT SHE'S STILL JUST A PLANT!
AND ONE SUBSTANCE EXISTS IN THE UNIVERSE WHICH IS DEADLY TO ALL PLANT LIFE... WHITE KRYPTONITE!
A SMALL SAMPLE OF IT IS IN THE SUPERMAN MUSEUM ACROSS TOWN! I'VE GOT TO HURRY OVER THERE AND TAKE THE WHITE K TO THE PARK BEFORE SUPERMAN RETURNS FROM SPACE!
YECHHH! SOMETHING HORRIBLE HAS HAPPENED TO THAT LITTLE POTTED PLANT I KEEP ON THE WINDOWSILL! IT'S GRABBING ME!
STRUGGLING VIOLENTLY LOIS IS BARELY ABLE TO REACH INTO A DESK DRAWER, AND...
IT SEEMS RZALIN HAS DISCOVERED SHE HAS TELEPATHIC CONTROL OVER ALL EARTH-PLANTS... JUST AS AQUAMAN CONTROLS ALL OUR SEA CREATURES! AND SHE CAN ACCELERATE THEIR GROWTH!
MY FOE KNOWS I'M A THREAT TO HER NOW!
WHEW! I ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT OF THERE!
10

MOMENTS LATER, ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF LOIS' APARTMENT BUILDING...
OH, NO! A SOLID WALL OF BUSHES HAS SPROUTED UP IN FRONT OF THE DOOR!
I'LL USE THE EMERGENCY FIRE-EXIT AND MAKE A RUN FOR MY CAR!
THE METRO-PARKWAY WILL TAKE ME ALL THE WAY AROUND THE PARK TO THE MUSEUM. I HOPE I'M IN TIME!
BUT BEFORE LOIS CAN REACH HER DESTINATION...
MERCIFUL GOD! RZALIN HAS COMMANDED THOSE TREES TO SEIZE MY CAR! IS THERE NO WAY TO ESCAPE HER?
THE MUSEUM'S ONLY A FEW HUNDRED YARDS FROM HERE! I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT ON FOOT!


AT THAT MOMENT, A NEARBY FLOWER SUDDENLY SPROUTS UPWARD...
UNTIL IT BECOMES A DEADLY THREAT...
OH-OH! RZALIN ISN'T THROUGH WITH ME YET!
JUST MISSED ME! MY RIVAL'S GETTING NASTY NOW! I COULD'VE SUFFOCATED INSIDE THOSE PETALS!
JUST THEN, A MICROSCOPIC POLLEN GRANULE FLOATING IN THE AIR STARTS ENLARGING WITH SPEED UNIMAGINABLE...
PUFF PUFF I'M OUT OF BREATH... EXHAUSTED... THAT THING WILL HAVE ME IN NO TIME!
12

SECONDS LATER, RZALIN'S POWER PROPELS THE GIANT GRANULE THROUGH THE AIR WITH ITS HUMAN CAPTIVE...
I DON'T NEED TWO GUESSES TO KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING!
I NEVER GOT THE WHITE K! THE HUMAN RACE IS DOOMED NOW!

YOU WERE DIFFICULT TO TRACK DOWN, EARTH-WOMAN! BUT I WANTED YOU HERE TO WATCH MY TRIUMPH!
HOW IRONIC-- RZALIN NEVER SUSPECTED I WAS TRYING TO DESTROY HER! SHE JUST WANTS TO GLOAT OVER HER CONQUEST OF SUPERMAN!
AND HERE HE COMES NOW!

SWIFTLY, SILENTLY, THE MAN OF STEEL FOLLOWS TELEPATHIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONCOCTING THE ELIXIR...
PLEASE, SUPERMAN-- STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

DRINK, MY LOVE, SO OUR VINES MAY BE ENTANGLED FOREVER!

A SHRIEK OF HORROR PIERCES THE AIR, AS...
EEEE!!!!YYYY!! I'VE LOST HIM! SUPERMAN IS BECOMING A TREE!

IT'S NO USE... I CAN'T LIVE ANY LONGER HERE... THE ORDEAL IS FINISHED...

IT'S NO USE... I CAN'T LIVE ANY LONGER HERE... THE ORDEAL IS FINISHED...
WHAT'S WITH THAT TREE, SUPERMAN? IT'S BEEN SQUIRMING IN THE GROUND THESE PAST FEW MINUTES LIKE IT WAS HAVING A NIGHTMARE!
YOU'RE NOT FAR FROM THE TRUTH...
MY MIND FEELS DRAINED... I'M SURE YOURS DOES, TOO, LOIS! I BELIEVE THIS ALIEN LIFE-FORM WAS USING OUR BRAIN-WAVES FOR FOOD!
INSTEAD OF LIVING OFF MINERALS IN THE SOIL, AS OUR PLANTS DO, THIS TREE MUST ABSORB THE THOUGHT-IMPULSES OF OTHER INTELLIGENT BEINGS!
JUST AS OTHER PLANTS MAKE THEIR OWN FOOD FROM THE SOIL... MY GUESS IS THE TREE CREATED ITS OWN MENTAL-FANTASY FROM THE THOUGHT-IMPULSES IT COLLECTED FROM OUR MINDS!
BUT, SUPERMAN-- WHY IS IT DYING?
THE TREE USED WHAT LITTLE POWER IT HAD LEFT TO SUMMON ME HERE... BUT IT SEEMS HUMAN MINDS AREN'T DEVELOPED ENOUGH TO KEEP IT ALIVE!
NO WONDER THIS SPECIES DIED OUT WHEN THE ALIEN TZOLS LEFT THE PLANET-- THE TREES DEPENDED ON THE TZOLS' SUPER-ADVANCED BRAINS FOR THEIR "FOOD"!
SINCE IT FED FROM OUR MINDS, WE MUST'VE BEEN IN THE TREE'S FANTASY! I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO US IN THAT DREAM?
YOU AND I WILL NEVER KNOW, LOIS!
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, READERS! YOU SAW THE TREE'S DREAM AS IT IMAGINED ITSELF TO BE LOIS!
THE END

National Periodical
PUBLICATIONS INC.

Dear Fans:

Let's stop and rap a moment ... we owe you an explanation!

First, we would like to thank you for buying this DC magazine even though it has cost you more than usual. But the fact that you bought it is what turns us on.

In keeping with our policy through the years of telling it like it is, we are going to level with you now.

As you must know, the cost of producing our comics these past few years has skyrocketed beyond belief. Nevertheless, we have continued to hold the same price. And since DC has been and is the symbol of only the very best, we could not and would not sacrifice quality for the sake of economy.

Of course, you know only too well that the cost of every item in your daily existance has been spiraling up, up and ever upward. But we here at DC were determined not to lay the extra cost of production on our readers until the moment that we absolutely had to. That moment has now come, and we must capitulate to the terrible tyrant ... inflation.

You will notice that we have given you with this magazine more pages for your hard-earned bread - not just ordinary pages, but specially selected stories that we were planning for a special time ... and that time is now!

We are confident that you will appreciate the facts given straight, and we, in turn, promise that we will never let you down.

Yours for the best in reading entertainment,

Carmine Infantino
Editorial Director

Dear Editor:

WOW! I really enjoyed issue 109. I have been a long-time fan of comics. So far I have written you one letter, but I don't want you to think all I can do is complain, as I did then. You really cleared up all my doubts.

I like Lucy's new hairstyle and I'd like to see more of her. I also enjoyed Lana's return. But I do have a few questions.

I thought Lois was supposed to be in with today's fashions. All I have seen her in are mini-dresses. The midi and the maxi-lengths are what's happening right now. Have Lois wear some of the new attire of today. Someone with as good a figure as she should be more aware of the latest styles.

Now on to a different subject. I am really getting a kick out of Rose and the Thorn! Your latest episode was a real blockbuster!! But tell me, when you wrote this adventure, did you have *The Phantom of the Opera* in mind? The acid and the secret passage seemed awfully familiar.

Even though Rose isn't aware of her dual identity, and the Thorn exists only through her subconscious, I think you have committed an error. The human body can only go 48 hours without sleep, subconsciously or not. Since the Thorn prowls at night, Rose would collapse of exhaustion.

Nicole Schneider, St. Louis, Mo.

(Who said Rose never sleeps? She spends part of the night prowling, part sleeping—and not necessarily switching to the Thorn every night. As for the fashions, you should know by now that the midi and maxi have bombed. It was pant suits that went over big—and Lois was one of the first to wear them. Now hot pants are the big thing—and one look at the cover will convince you Lois is with it. —E.N.B.)

• • •

Dear Mtg. Bridwell:

It's incredible, but under your editorship, *Lois Lane*, a mag which I always thought was great, has become even better. Case in point: *Lois* #109.

I hope Cary Bates becomes the regular Lois writer, because his latest tale, "I'll Never Fall in Love Again" (what a great song title that would make!) was truly fantastic. The basic idea for the story was one of the most original I've encountered in a long time. Supie's fit of rage and his characterization in general were stupendous, as was Lana's realization that loving Supie was hopeless. Lana's elimination from the scene was highly plausible and intelligently handled. In fact, the only weak part of this tale was page 12, panels 1-4, which were a bit cliche-ridden and corny. Otherwise, this was a truly enjoyable story.

As for art, what did you do to Werner Roth and Vince Colletta? In one issue, they've gone from good to the best artists Lois ever had, topping Irv Novick and even Kurt Schaffenberger. I hope this amazing trend continues.

Now we come to comicdom's answer to Raquel Welch, Rose and the Thorn. Her latest adventure is a welcome change of pace from the usual 100-catching she does. She only has about 75 more criminals left, so I hope these changes-of-pace are frequently presented. Anyway, I think the organization should have been called the 1,000, so Thorn would have been assured of many more tales.

Gerard Triano, Elmont, N.Y.

*(See the end of this issue's Thorn tale to learn why she's not apt to run out of baddies very soon. But in next issue's novel-lengther, co-starring Lois and the Thorn, the Floral Fury gets a new and unexpected backer. Also, the Daily Planet gets a new columnist. Remember—it's out in just one month! While going to 25c—and 48 pages—*Lois *has also gone monthly! —E.N.B.)*

• • •

Dear Editor:

I am trying to be civil. I really am. But don't blame me if I burst and say something you hypocrites don't want to admit.

What possessed you to print a story like the lead in #109? Oh, it was interesting, but that is not what I'm complaining about.

Lana! What have you done to Lana? Oh, you have her "neatly disposed of temporarily." That was what you said in answer to a letter in 108. WELL, I JUST HAPPEN TO THINK THE PACKAGE YOU TIED IS MESSY! I DON'T LIKE WHAT'S INSIDE, EITHER!

Okay, let me regain my sanity. Let me have my say before you put down this letter. I've read your DC comics for years now, ever since I began to read. That was about 10 years ago. *Green Lantern, Flash* and *Batman* progressed beautifully. So who cared about them? I care about the only comic that featured a bright, beautiful redhead every now and then.

Lana was always the gentler, more feminine, sensible and, subtly, more courageous of the two girls. Lois was always the impetuous and jealous. I don't dislike her. I *hate Superman.*

SO HERE'S FINALLY THE GOOD PART OF MY LETTER:

I hate those stupid Rose and Thorn stories. So what should you do?

You know what would make a good series? Lana traveling about Europe as a TV correspondent. Meeting new people, new danger, and still heartbroken. Or how about the future? Remember Mon-El? He loved Shadow Lass, but she was killed when she grew up. How about him?

Better still, I have always liked the thought of *Batman and Lana.* I like *him* best of all. How about it? Bruce Wayne could be in Europe on business and meet Lana. Think about it, hmm? I'll forgive you for everything else, okay? Please?

Marcie Newman, Chicopee, Ma.

(The letters of protest from Lana fans remind me of the people who protested when Scott had Wilfred of Ivanhoe marry Rowena instead of Rebecca—or the girls who wrote to Louisa May Alcott, angry because Jo did not marry Laurie in Little Women. *Yet consider that Lois was in the very first Superman story, in* Action *#1, back in 1938. The Superboy series was not started till 1945; the* Superboy *magazine began in 1949—and Lana wasn't introduced till* Superboy *#10! Lois already had her own magazine before her rivalry with the adult Lana started. And we can cite plenty of stories where Lana has been impetuous and jealous. As for Batman—that's something for editor Julie Schwartz to handle. The Caped Crimefighter will not start a serious romance in* Lois Lane! *—E.N.B.)*

Address all comments to LETTERS TO LOIS AND ROSE, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

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SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND LOIS LANE PART I

WHY HASN'T **SUPERMAN** EVER MARRIED LOIS LANE, WHO IS OBVIOUSLY CLEVER, ATTRACTIVE, AND VERY MUCH IN LOVE WITH THE **MAN OF STEEL**? IS IT TRUE THAT HE WON'T MARRY HER BECAUSE HE FEARS HIS ENEMIES WOULD THEN STRIKE AT HIM BY DESTROYING HER? OR IS THERE SOME **OTHER** SECRET REASON HE HAS NEVER REVEALED?--ONE DAY, LOIS THINKS SHE HAS FOUND THE REAL ANSWER, WHEN SHE UNHAPPILY DISCOVERS...

SUPERMAN'S SECRET FAMILY!

FROM: **LOIS LANE** # 30 (JAN., 1962).

ART: KURT SCHAFFENBERGER

WHERE ARE YOU FLYING MOMMY TO, DADDY?

WHAT'S WRONG, MISS LANE? YOU LOOK **ILL!**

OH, NO!--PROFESSOR BURKE'S SUPER-TELESCOPE REVEALS THAT **SUPERMAN** IS LIVING A DOUBLE-LIFE ON A DISTANT SMALL PLANET! HE SECRETLY HAS A **MERMAID WIFE** AND A **SUPERMAN-MERMAN SON** THERE!--} CHOKE {

ONE AFTERNOON, AT THE **DAILY PLANET**, EDITOR PERRY WHITE GIVES REPORTER LOIS LANE AN ASSIGNMENT...

PROFESSOR BURKE, THE FAMOUS ASTRONOMER, CLAIMS HE'S INVENTED A SUPER RADIO-TELESCOPE WHICH ENABLES YOU NOT ONLY TO **SEE**, BUT **HEAR**...

...WHAT'S HAPPENING ON **OTHER WORLDS**! I WANT YOU TO FIND **OUT** IF WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE!

OKAY, PERRY!

AN HOUR LATER, AT PROFESSOR BURKE'S OBSERVATORY...
GASP!... IT'S INCREDIBLE! I'M ACTUALLY WITNESSING A BATTLE BETWEEN ALIEN CREATURES ON A PLANET LIGHT YEARS DISTANT FROM OUR OWN WORLD!
GROWWLEFF!
GR-ROARRR!
AND YOU'RE HEARING THE CREATURES' ROARS!
AS THE PROFESSOR FOCUSES ON STILL ANOTHER WORLD...
WE ARE NOW OBSERVING A STREET-SCENE ON THE PLANET YORRP! NOTE THE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF HIGHLY INTELLIGENT CREATURES!
YOUR INVENTION IS...FABULOUS! SHOW ME MORE!!

NEXT, THE SUPER-TELESCOPE VIEWS A SCENE ON A SMALL PLANET...
MOMMY! MY TELESCOPIC VISION SEES DADDY COMING!
GOOD, NIPPER!
GASP!... A MERMAN-CHILD AND ITS MOTHER! THEY SPEAK ENGLISH-- AND THE CHILD HAS ...SUPER-POWERS!

DADDY!!
WELCOME BACK! WE'VE MISSED YOU, DARLING!
I HATE BEING AWAY SO OFTEN, BUT IT'S NECESSARY, MOOKI!
OH... NO!!! THIS IS SUPERMAN'S HOME, AND THOSE ARE HIS WIFE AND SON!!...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!

DADDY, LOOK! ME CAUGHT THIS LION-FISH ALL BY MYSELF, AND I'VE TAMED HIM! HIM WILL MAKE A SWELL PET!
HA, HA! NICE GOING, NIPPER!

ME WILL FLY TANK TO RIVER AND FILL TANK WITH FRESH WATER!
SUPERMAN...MARRIED! NO WONDER HE'S NEVER MARRIED ME, SINCE HE ALREADY HAS A WIFE AND SON ON ANOTHER WORLD!

A Demand Classic

BUT WHY'D HE MARRY A MERMAID?!.. ;CHOKE!:...OH...I...SEE... HE NEVER GOT OVER THAT ATLANTIDE MERMAID, LORI... WHOM HE LOVED... MARRYING SOMEONE ELSE! SO HE MARRIED MOOKI, ON THE REBOUND! THEIR CHILD INHERITED HIS FATHER'S SUPER-POWERS!
HONEY, I WANTED TO BAKE A PIE FOR YOU, BUT THE OVEN BROKE DOWN!
THEN LET ME BAKE ONE FOR YOU, SWEETHEART!

MOMENTS LATER...
THERE! I'VE BAKED A SUPER-PIE FOR YOU, DARLING, WITH MY HEAT-VISION!--HAPPY?
BLISSFUL!
I-I CAN'T STAND THIS ANY LONGER!
MISS LANE...?!!

HOME TO HER APARTMENT RUSHES A BROKEN-HEARTED LOIS...
SUPERMAN...ALREADY MARRIED...A HUSBAND AND FATHER!...HE MUST HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT HOME ON THE LITTLE PLANET SO HIS WIFE AND CHILD WOULD BE SAFE FROM HIS ENEMIES!

WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ME? THOUGH I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MARRY HIM MYSELF, I'D HAVE BEEN A GOOD SPORT ABOUT IT!... BUT, NO! I GUESS HE ENJOYED HAVING ME MAKE A FOOL OF MYSELF OVER HIM!
HOW HE MUST HAVE LAUGHED AT ME, INWARDLY!... I'M NOT BROKEN-HEARTED ANY MORE! I'M FURIOUS! ONCE I LOVED SUPERMAN, BUT NOW I HATE HIM! I HATE HIM... I HATE HIM... I HATE HIM... !!!

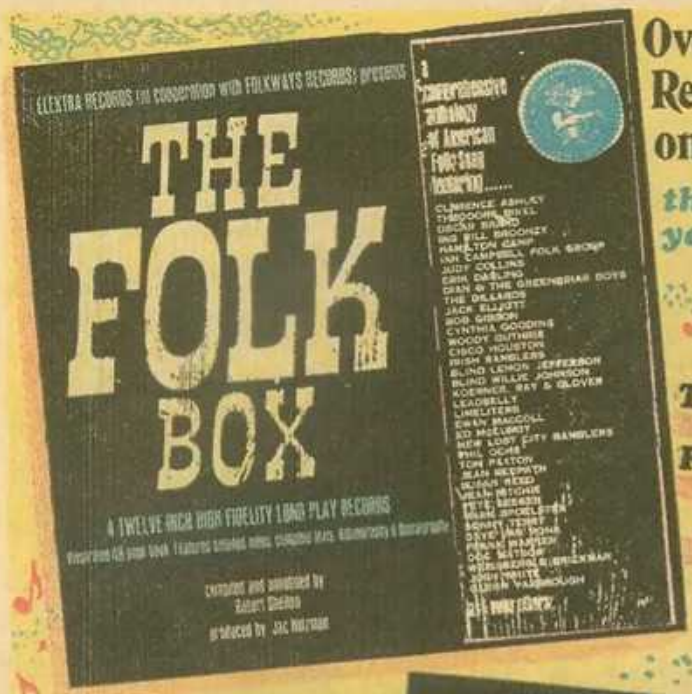
NEXT DAY, AT THE PLANET OFFICE...
HI, LOIS! I'VE JUST RETURNED FROM A SPACE MISSION, AND THOUGHT I'D STOP BY TO SAY HELLO!
THIS SPACE MISSION OF YOURS--WAS IT DIFFICULT?
DIFFICULT?..HA, HA, IT WAS AS EASY AS PIE!
HE'S THINKING ABOUT THAT PIE HE MADE FOR HIS FISH-WIFE, AND HE'S SECRETLY LAUGHING AT ME!
PLEASE EXCUSE ME, SUPERMAN, I'M VERY BUSY!

NEXT DAY, LOIS RETURNS TO THE OBSERVATORY..
IT'S...HARD TO BELIEVE I DIDN'T IMAGINE IT ALL! I'LL ASK THE PROFESSOR TO LET ME LOOK ONCE AGAIN AT THE SMALL PLANET ON WHICH SUPERMAN LEADS A DOUBLE-LIFE!
AS PROFESSOR BURKE OBLIGES...
MOMMY, THERE AM A SPACE SHIP ON THE SPACE-VIEWER!
I RECOGNIZE ITS DESIGN! IT'S ONE OF THOSE SPACE-PIRATE SHIPS YOUR DADDY WARNED US ABOUT!--I'LL QUICKLY TOUCH THE RED BUTTON!
SUPERMAN'S FAMILY IS IN DANGER!

BUT AS THE MERMAID PRESSES THE RED BUTTON...
ASTOUNDING! LOOK! THE PLANET HAS DISAPPEARED!! THE ALIEN SPACE SHIP IS PASSING THE AREA WHERE THE SMALL WORLD WAS!
SUPERMAN'S PROTECTIVE-DEVICE MADE THE PLANET INVISIBLE!

SHORTLY AFTER MOOKI MAKES THE PLANET INVISIBLE AGAIN, HER HUSBAND ARRIVES...
SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU, HONEY?
YES! YOUR SON! JUST LOOK AT HIM! HE WON'T EAT THE GOOD FOOD I'VE MADE FOR HIM! HE INSISTS ON LICKING THAT GIANT LOLLYPOP HE MADE INSTEAD!

SON!...OBEY YOUR MOTHER! GET AWAY FROM THAT LOLLYPOP!
NO! IT TASTE GOOD! ME LIKE IT! IT AM MINE!
YAAA-AAAAAAAAAAA!
GASP!...THE VIBRATIONS OF SUPERMAN'S SUPER-SHOUT BURST HIS SON'S GREAT LOLLYPOP INTO BROKEN FRAGMENTS!
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH!... IT'S TRUE, ALL RIGHT! SUPERMAN IS LEADING A DOUBLE-LIFE!
NEXT DAY, AS SUPERMAN VISITS LOIS AT HER APARTMENT...
I'VE JUST COME BACK FROM ANOTHER SPACE MISSION! MIND IF I ADMIRE YOUR BABY BLUE EYES!
I SUPPOSE THIS MISSION WAS EASY FOR YOU, TOO!
IT WAS AS SIMPLE AS TAKING CANDY FROM A BABY! HA, HA!
AGAIN HE'S SECRETLY LAUGHING AT ME! HE'S THINKING ABOUT HOW HE GOT THAT HUGE LOLLYPOP AWAY FROM HIS SUPER-MERMAN SON!
YOU'RE LOOKING EXCEPTIONALLY WELL, LOIS!
NOW HE'S MAKING WITH THE COMPLIMENTS, TRYING TO TURN MY HEAD WITH FLATTERY! THE TWO-FACED FOUR-FLUSHER! I DESPISE HIM!
AS HER TEMPER EXPLODES, LOIS SLAPS SUPERMAN, BUT...
TAKE THAT!...
OWW-w! M-MY HAND! IT HURTS!
?!--HEY! CAREFUL! I'M HARDER THAN STEEL, REMEMBER?
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING!
5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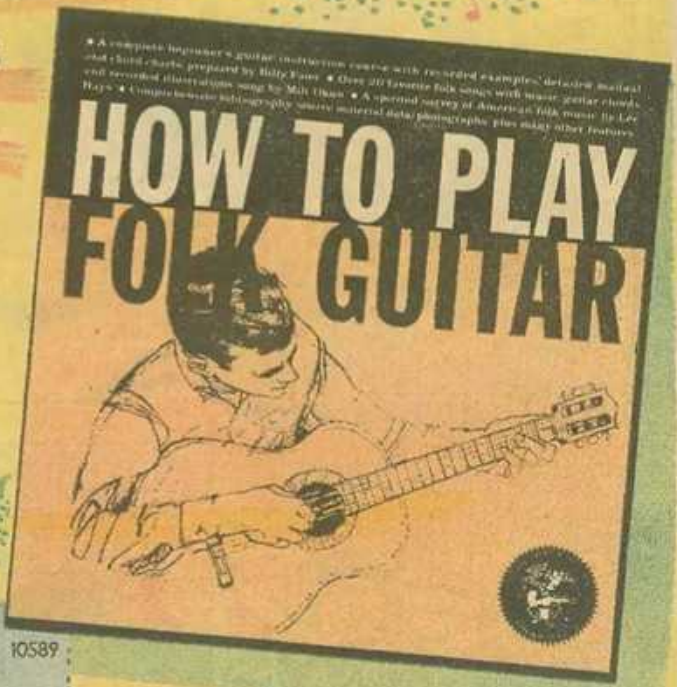

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I DON'T GET IT! I COMPLIMENTED YOU, THEN YOU SLAPPED ME! WHY, LOIS?
OH, YOU'RE VERY INNOCENT AND BEWILDERED, AREN'T YOU... YOU PHONEY!!
PHONEY? ME?!?!
YOU DISGUSTING CAD! I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR DOUBLE-LIFE, ABOUT YOUR WIFE AND SON ON ANOTHER PLANET, AND THE WAY YOU ENJOY HAVING GIRLS LIKE ME FOOLISHLY THROW THEMSELVES AT YOU, NOT KNOWING YOU'RE SECRETLY MARRIED!
THE REST OF THE WORLD MAY THINK MIGHTY SUPERMAN IS HONORABLE... BUT I NOW KNOW YOU FOR WHAT YOU REALLY ARE! A CONCEITED SUPER-IDIOT WITH A COLOSSAL, SICK EGO!... YOU'RE... REVOLTING...!
GET OUT! YOU KNOW HOW TO FLY, SO... GO FLY A KITE! GET LOST! I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF YOU!
LOIS, IS THIS SOME JOKE? WHAT YOU'RE SAYING ISN'T TRUE!
LIAR! I SAW YOU AND YOUR WIFE AND YOUR CHILD, ON ANOTHER WORLD, THROUGH PROFESSOR BURKE'S NEW SUPER-TELESCOPE!... WILL YOU PLEASE LEAVE?!!!
PROFESSOR BURKE, EH?... I'LL BE BACK!
SWIFTLY, SUPERMAN FLASHES TO THE OBSERVATORY, THEN AFTER HE LOOKS AT THE SUPER-TELESCOPE'S SCREEN, AT A CERTAIN SMALL PLANET...
SUPERMAN, I...
I CAN'T TALK TO YOU NOW, PROFESSOR! I'VE GOT TO SEE LOIS AGAIN, RIGHT AWAY!

MOMENTS LATER...
OH, IT'S YOU! I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D HAVE THE NERVE TO FACE ME AGAIN! STAY OUT!
NO, I'M COMING IN!!
LOIS, I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU TO THAT DISTANT SMALL PLANET, AND CLEAR MYSELF!
NO! I WON'T GO! PUT ME DOWN, YOU... YOU BEAST! YOU SUPER-BRUTE! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE LIES!
RAPIDLY, THE MAN OF STEEL BUILDS A PLASTIC BUBBLE EQUIPPED WITH OXYGEN-TANKS, THEN, AFTER HE PLACES LOIS IN IT...
HE CAN'T REALLY BE GOING THROUGH WITH THIS! WHAT'S HIS GAME?
THROUGH THE UNIVERSE STREAKS SUPERMAN WITH LOIS, UNTIL...
THE SMALL PLANET WHERE SUPERMAN LEADS HIS DOUBLE-LIFE IS DIRECTLY AHEAD! WHY IS HE TAKING ME HERE, WHEN HE'S OBVIOUSLY GUILTY OF WHAT I ACCUSED HIM?
SECONDS LATER, ON THE PLANET...
GOOD GRACIOUS! WE'RE ALIGHTING RIGHT BEFORE HIS WIFE AND SON! WHAT CAN HE "PROVE" NOW? SUPERMAN MUST BE OUT OF HIS MIND!!

ONE INSTANT AFTERWARD...
NOW WE'LL GET AT THE TRUTH, LOIS!
THE TRUTH!.. HOW BRAZEN CAN YOU GET???
TELL HER!... AM I YOUR HUSBAND?
NO! HIM NOT MY DADDY, EITHER!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? ARE THEY ALL CRAZY? HAS SUPERMAN SUPER-HYPNOTIZED HIS OWN FAMILY INTO LYING FOR SOME REASON???
JUST THEN, INTO VIEW STREAKS...
I AM THE HEAD OF THIS FAMILY!
YOU NOW! BUT I THOUGHT YOU NO LONGER EXISTED! GREAT SCOTT! I RECOGNIZE YOU ARE...
...SUPERMAN ROBOT X-3!!
CORRECT! AND MY WIFE AND SON ARE ROBOTS, TOO!... SEE?
GASP!... HOW CAN THIS BE POSSIBLE???
YES, HOW DID THIS AMAZING FAMILY OF ROBOTS COME INTO EXISTENCE ON THIS FAR DISTANT PLANET? SEE THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THIS ISSUE FOR THE INCREDIBLE ANSWER!
9

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SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND LOIS LANE PART II

FAR OFF IN SPACE, ON A REMOTE SMALL PLANET, LOIS LANE FINDS HERSELF FACE-TO-FACE WITH A BAFFLING ENIGMA! IS IT TRUE THAT A SUPERMAN ROBOT HAS BEEN LIVING HERE WITH HIS ROBOT FAMILY ...OR IS THIS ALL A FANTASTIC LIE STAGED BY SUPERMAN TO COVER UP HIS DOUBLE-LIFE? READ ON AND LEARN THE ASTOUNDING ANSWER YOURSELF ABOUT... The

ROBOT PARADISE!

YOU MUST BELIEVE ME, LOIS! THE MARRIED "SUPERMAN" YOU SAW THROUGH THAT SUPER-TELESCOPE ISN'T ME! IT'S THIS SUPERMAN ROBOT WHO WAS DESTROYED YEARS AGO!

DESTROYED, EH? THEN WHAT'S HE DOING HERE, WITH A ROBOT FAMILY? ANSWER ME THAT, SUPERMAN!! ROBOTS DON'T HAVE CHILDREN!

N-342

STARTLED, LOIS PROTESTS... SUPERMAN, I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF THIS! A SUPERMAN ROBOT COMPLETE WITH ROBOT FAMILY, ON A DISTANT WORLD, AND YOU KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT? NOW, REALLY...!

LOIS, I'VE WRONGLY BELIEVED THAT SUPERMAN ROBOT X-3 PERISHED LONG AGO! LET ME EXPLAIN...

GO AHEAD! I WON'T BE EASY TO CONVINCE!

1

A Demand Classic

"ROBOT X-3 IS ONE OF THE FOUR ORIGINAL ATOM-POWERED SUPERMAN ROBOTS I BUILT YEARS AGO..."
LET'S GO, ROBOTS! I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU SOME IMPORTANT SECRET TRAINING AWAY FROM PRYING EYES!

"SOON, ON AN UNINHABITED PLANET..."
ALL OF YOU POSSESS SUPER-POWERS JUST AS GREAT AS MINE! HOWEVER, YOU HAVE ONE ADDED ADVANTAGE! YOU AREN'T VULNERABLE TO GREEN KRYPTONITE, THE ONE SUBSTANCE WHICH CAN KILL ME!

"SUBSTITUTING A GREEN BOULDER FOR A KRYPTONITE METEOR, I TAUGHT THEM LESSON ONE..."
ARRRGH! ...UHHH... OH-HHH!
THAT'S RIGHT, ROBOT X-2! MAKE BELIEVE THIS IS GREEN KRYPTONITE! PRETEND GREAT WEAKNESS AND AGONY!

VERY GOOD!... AT TIMES, I'LL WANT YOU TO PUT ON AN ACT LIKE THIS, SO CROOKS WILL MISTAKENLY THINK I'M HELPLESS! THEN, WHILE YOU PLAY "DEAD", I'LL SECRETLY TRAIL THEM AND CATCH THEM RED-HANDED WITH STOLEN LOOT!

"NEXT, WHEN ONE OF MY ROBOTS DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A POLICEMAN..." NO! NO!... SLOWER, ROBOT X-3! YOU'RE RUNNING TOO FAST! FRICTION WITH THE AIR IS BURNING OFF YOUR POLICEMAN DISGUISE! IF YOU DID THIS PUBLICLY, PEOPLE WOULD KNOW YOU WEREN'T HUMAN!
2

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A Demand Classic

SILENTLY, SUPERMAN RECALLS...
REMEMBER! WHEN SWITCHING FROM THE IDENTITY OF CLARK KENT TO SUPERMAN, YOU MUST ALWAYS DO IT UNOBSERVED! BEHIND BUSHES, LIKE THIS...OR IN AN EMPTY ALLEY, OR STORE-ROOM...

"I ALSO INSTRUCTED MY ROBOTS HOW TO ANSWER AN S.O.S. FROM JIMMY OLSEN'S SIGNAL-WATCH..."
ROBOTS, THIS WATCH IS AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF THE ONE I'VE GIVEN MY PAL, JIMMY OLSEN. WHENEVER HE PRESSES ITS BUTTON, IT EMANATES A SUPER-SONIC SIGNAL THAT ONLY OUR EARS CAN DETECT! BEWARE OF FALSE SIGNALS FROM CRIMINALS!
ZEE-ZEE-ZEE-

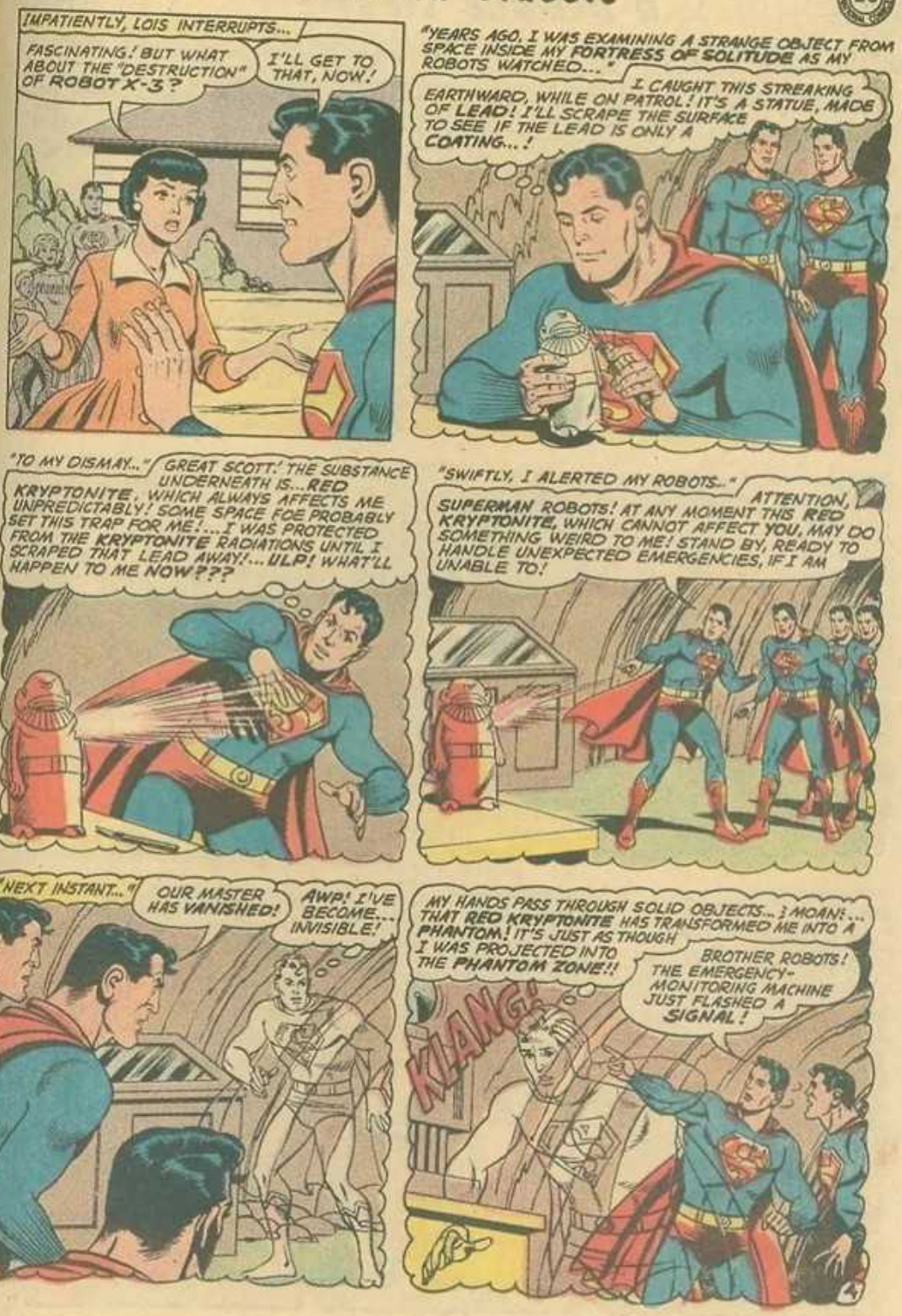
"...NEXT, I BUILT A GREAT HIGH-POWER ELECTRICITY STATION, AND DEMONSTRATED ANOTHER VITAL LESSON..."
ZZZ-ZZZT!
ERROR!... YOU FLEW TOO CLOSE TO THE HIGH TENSION WIRES, ROBOT X-1!

AVOID ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT SUCH AS SUPER-POWERED DYNAMOS OR ELECTRO-MAGNETS! THEY CAN SHORT-CIRCUIT THE METAL MOTORS THAT CONTROL YOUR BODIES! IN A REAL EMERGENCY, I MIGHT NOT BE THERE TO RESCUE YOU, LIKE THIS!

"OF COURSE, I TAUGHT THEM MUCH MORE..."
WHEN THE RED FLAG SHOWS ON YOUR PALM, THAT'S YOUR SIGNAL TO STAY OUT OF VIEW BECAUSE ANOTHER SUPERMAN ROBOT IS ON DUTY NEARBY! WE MUST NEVER LET ANYONE SEE MORE THAN ONE SUPERMAN IN ACTION AT THE SAME TIME--OR THEY'LL KNOW ONE MUST BE A ROBOT!

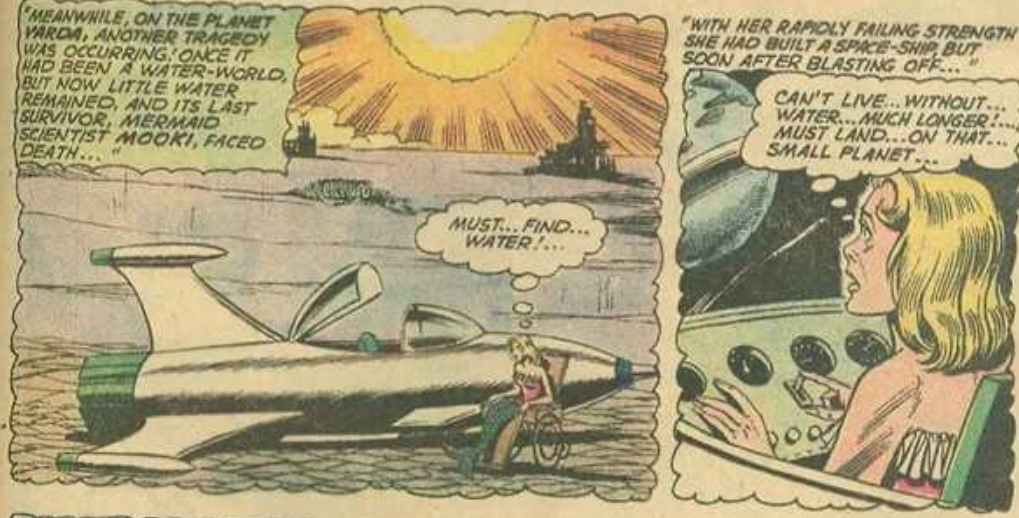
"I EVEN INTRODUCED THE ROBOTS TO MY SUPER-DOG, KRYPTO...
EASY, KRYPTO! THESE AREN'T IMPOSTORS. THEY'RE MY OFFICIAL ROBOTS! YOU MUST ALWAYS GREET THEM WARMLY AND OBEY THEIR COMMANDS AS YOU DO MINE. YOUR SUPER-SCENT WILL ENABLE YOU TO RECOGNIZE THEM NEXT TIME YOU MEET!
WOOF! WOOF!

A Demand Classic

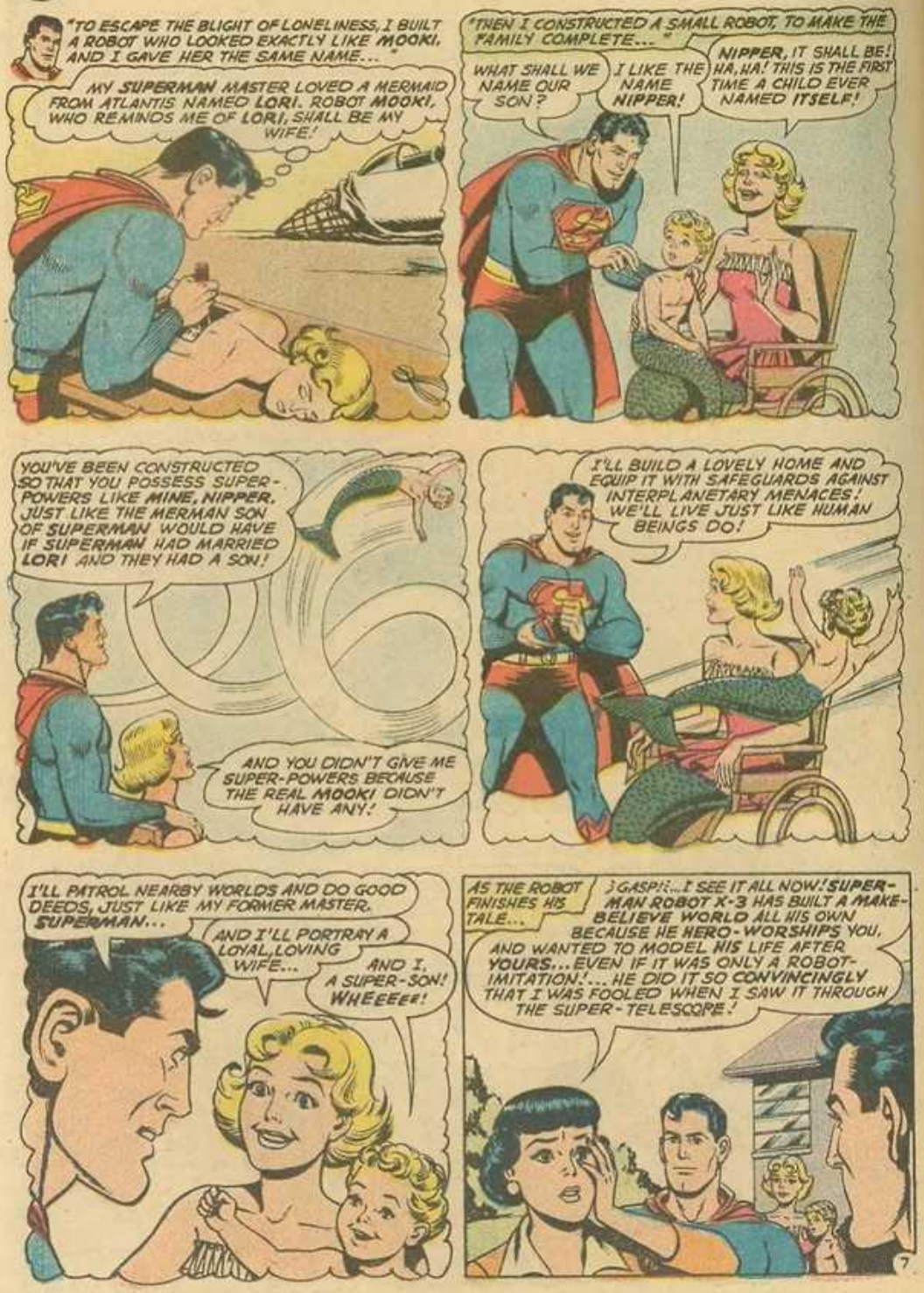

IMPATIENTLY, LOIS INTERRUPTS...
FASCINATING! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE "DESTRUCTION" OF ROBOT X-3?
I'LL GET TO THAT, NOW!
"YEARS AGO, I WAS EXAMINING A STRANGE OBJECT FROM SPACE INSIDE MY FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE AS MY ROBOTS WATCHED..."
I CAUGHT THIS STREAKING EARTHWARD, WHILE ON PATROL! IT'S A STATUE, MADE OF LEAD! I'LL SCRAPE THE SURFACE TO SEE IF THE LEAD IS ONLY A COATING...!
"TO MY DISMAY..."
GREAT SCOTT! THE SUBSTANCE UNDERNEATH IS...RED KRYPTONITE, WHICH ALWAYS AFFECTS ME UNPREDICTABLY! SOME SPACE FOE PROBABLY SET THIS TRAP FOR ME!...I WAS PROTECTED FROM THE KRYPTONITE RADIATIONS UNTIL I SCRAPED THAT LEAD AWAY!...ULP! WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO ME NOW???
"SWIFTLY, I ALERTED MY ROBOTS..."
ATTENTION, SUPERMAN ROBOTS! AT ANY MOMENT THIS RED KRYPTONITE, WHICH CANNOT AFFECT YOU, MAY DO SOMETHING WEIRD TO ME! STAND BY, READY TO HANDLE UNEXPECTED EMERGENCIES, IF I AM UNABLE TO!
"NEXT INSTANT..."
OUR MASTER HAS VANISHED!
AWP! I'VE BECOME...INVISIBLE!
MY HANDS PASS THROUGH SOLID OBJECTS...I MOAN!...THAT RED KRYPTONITE HAS TRANSFORMED ME INTO A PHANTOM! IT'S JUST AS THOUGH I WAS PROJECTED INTO THE PHANTOM ZONE!!
KLANG!
BROTHER ROBOTS! THE EMERGENCY-MONITORING MACHINE JUST FLASHED A SIGNAL!

"AND AS A ROBOT CHECKED THE MACHINE..."
THE EMERGENCY EXISTS IN OUTER SPACE!
OUR TELESCOPIC VISION WILL REVEAL THE NATURE OF THE EMERGENCY!
"AS A LEAD PANEL IN THE FORTRESS' ROOF WAS OPENED, THEIR TELESCOPIC VISION REVEALED..."
AN AMERICAN ASTRONAUT IS ALOFT ON AN UNOFFICIAL TEST SPACE FLIGHT. AND HE'S PERMANENTLY STUCK IN ORBIT!
SEE! HE'S TRYING TO OPEN THE PARACHUTE-HATCH, BUT IT'S JAMMED! HE'LL DIE!
"TRAPPED IN MY PHANTOM STATE, I WAS UNABLE TO ACT, BUT..."
I, ROBOT X-3, WILL HANDLE THE EMERGENCY!
HOW FORTUNATE THAT MY ROBOTS CAN TAKE OVER WHENEVER I'M OUT OF ACTION!
"INVISIBLY, I FOLLOWED ROBOT X-3 INTO OUTER SPACE, AND WITNESSED..."
HE'S FORCING OPEN THE STUCK HATCH! HE'S SHOVING THE SPACE SHIP DOWNWARD SO IT'LL SAFELY DESCEND!
"BUT THE NEXT MOMENT..." WHAT A TRAGEDY! A METEOR STRUCK THE ROBOT! HE CAN'T POSSIBLY SURVIVE THAT GREAT IMPACT!... TOO BAD!
AS SUPERMAN COMPLETES HIS EXPLANATION...
SHORTLY AFTER I RETURNED TO THE FORTRESS, THE EFFECTS OF THE RED KRYPTONITE WORE OFF, AND I BECAME VISIBLE AGAIN! I BUILT ANOTHER ROBOT TO REPLACE X-3!
PLEASE ANSWER ONE QUESTION!
IF THE ORIGINAL ROBOT X-3 PERISHED, SUPERMAN, WHAT IS HE DOING HERE...WITH A ROBOT FAMILY!
I... I DON'T KNOW!
I'LL EXPLAIN!

"BADLY DAMAGED BY THAT METEOR COLLISION, I, ROBOT K-3, MUST HAVE DRIFTED OFF THROUGH SPACE... DEVOID OF CONSCIOUSNESS..."
"THIS PLANET'S GRAVITY DREW ME DOWN TO ITS SURFACE... WHERE I LAY INERT, A BROKEN-DOWN MACHINE THAT NO LONGER FUNCTIONED..."


"MEANWHILE, ON THE PLANET VARDA, ANOTHER TRAGEDY WAS OCCURRING! ONCE IT HAD BEEN A WATER-WORLD, BUT NOW LITTLE WATER REMAINED, AND ITS LAST SURVIVOR, MERMAID SCIENTIST MOOKI, FACED DEATH..."
MUST... FIND... WATER!...
"WITH HER RAPIDLY FAILING STRENGTH SHE HAD BUILT A SPACE-SHIP, BUT SOON AFTER BLASTING OFF..."
CAN'T LIVE... WITHOUT... WATER... MUCH LONGER!... MUST LAND... ON THAT... SMALL PLANET...

"AFTER HER SHIP CRACKED UP ON THIS WORLD, SHE COULD NOT LOCATE WATER IN TIME TO SAVE HER LIFE... BUT SHE DID FIND... ME..."
I AM... DOOMED! BUT I'LL BRING THE ROBOT BACK TO LIFE"... I'LL REPAIR HIS BROKEN BODY...
"HER SCIENTIFIC GENIUS REPAIRED ME..."
THANK YOU, MOOKI!
LIKE MERMAID LORI OF ATLANTIS, SHE COMMUNICATES BY SENDING MENTAL MESSAGES!
I AM DYING... FRIEND. SORRY... I COULD NOT COMPLETELY FIX YOUR... ATOMIC-POWERED BODY WITHOUT THE... NECESSARY PARTS. --YOU WILL NOT BE... ABLE TO FLY... ALL THE WAY BACK TO EARTH...
"SHE DIED IN MY ARMS. I BURIED HER, WITH HEAVY HEART..."
I WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO... MOOKI! BUT NOW I'M ALONE ON THIS WORLD... FAR FROM MY MASTER SUPERMAN. --ALONE... ALONE...
MOOKI
6


"TO ESCAPE THE BLIGHT OF LONELINESS, I BUILT A ROBOT WHO LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE MOOKI, AND I GAVE HER THE SAME NAME..."
MY SUPERMAN MASTER LOVED A MERMAID FROM ATLANTIS NAMED LORI. ROBOT MOOKI, WHO REMINDS ME OF LORI, SHALL BE MY WIFE!
"THEN I CONSTRUCTED A SMALL ROBOT, TO MAKE THE FAMILY COMPLETE..."
WHAT SHALL WE NAME OUR SON?
I LIKE THE NAME NIPPER!
NIPPER, IT SHALL BE! HA, HA! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A CHILD EVER NAMED ITSELF!
YOU'VE BEEN CONSTRUCTED SO THAT YOU POSSESS SUPER-POWERS LIKE MINE, NIPPER, JUST LIKE THE MERMAN SON OF SUPERMAN WOULD HAVE IF SUPERMAN HAD MARRIED LORI AND THEY HAD A SON!
AND YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME SUPER-POWERS BECAUSE THE REAL MOOKI DIDN'T HAVE ANY!
I'LL BUILD A LOVELY HOME AND EQUIP IT WITH SAFEGUARDS AGAINST INTERPLANETARY MENACES! WE'LL LIVE JUST LIKE HUMAN BEINGS DO!
I'LL PATROL NEARBY WORLDS AND DO GOOD DEEDS, JUST LIKE MY FORMER MASTER, SUPERMAN...
AND I'LL PORTRAY A LOYAL, LOVING WIFE...
AND I, A SUPER-SON! WHEEEEE!
AS THE ROBOT FINISHES HIS TALE...
}GASP!!...I SEE IT ALL NOW! SUPERMAN ROBOT X-3 HAS BUILT A MAKE-BELIEVE WORLD ALL HIS OWN BECAUSE HE HERO-WORSHIPS YOU, AND WANTED TO MODEL HIS LIFE AFTER YOURS... EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY A ROBOT-IMITATION!... HE DID IT SO CONVINCINGLY THAT I WAS FOOLED WHEN I SAW IT THROUGH THE SUPER-TELESCOPE!
7

NOW THAT YOU HAVE COME, MASTER, YOU WILL EITHER DISMANTLE US, BECAUSE I AM IMPERFECT, OR COMPLETELY REPAIR MY ATOMIC MECHANISM AND RETURN ME TO EARTH...
NO, X-3!

NOTHING COULD INDUCE ME TO SPOIL THIS SPLENDID "MAKE-BELIEVE" FAMILY OF YOURS!...I'M GOING TO LEAVE WITH LOIS, NOW!...I'LL ALWAYS FONDLY REMEMBER YOU AND MOOKI AND NIPPER!
THANK YOU, SUPERMAN! WE'LL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS! VISIT US AGAIN, SOON!

AFTER SUPERMAN FLIES LOIS BACK TO EARTH IN THE GLOBE...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR DOUBTING YOU, SUPERMAN! AND I'M SO GLAD YOU ALLOWED X-3 AND HIS FAMILY TO CONTINUE LIVING IN THEIR ROBOT PARADISE...
I'M HAPPY WE'RE FRIENDS AGAIN, LOIS!

GOSH, SUPERMAN'S NOT ONLY THE MIGHTIEST MAN IN THE UNIVERSE, BUT HE CAN BE VERY GENTLE AND UNDERSTANDING! WHAT A WONDERFUL HUSBAND HE'D MAKE!! IN A WAY, I ALMOST ENVY ROBOT MOOKI! BUT WHO KNOWS? MAYBE, SOME DAY...!
8
The End

THAT'S THE STORY--ONE OF THE STRANGEST LOVE STORIES EVER TOLD!

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GIANT

LOIS LANE

ON SALE JULY 6!

SCRIPT: ROBERT KANIGHER
ART: DICK GIORDANO
IN THE LAST ISSUE
A DAILY TARGET OF THE RUTHLESS 100'S GUNS-- THE SHADOWY THORN TURNS UPON HER LATEST WOULD-BE EXECUTIONER...
APPALLED AT THE SIGHT OF HER STALKER'S FACE...
WHY-- YOU'RE JUST A KID! DO YOU REALIZE THAT THE 100 WILL EXECUTE YOU-- FOR FAILING TO KILL ME?
DON'T SNOW ME, THORN! THE SYNDICATE'LL SPRING ME! I'M THE SON OF THEIR TOP GUN--LEO THE LYNX!
BUT, SHORTLY, THE LASHING LORELEI HAS TO EMERGE FROM THE SHADOWS TO SNATCH HER OWN DAZED EXECUTIONER FROM A 100's FIRING SQUAD...
Y-YOU WERE RIGHT, THORN! TH-THEY WERE GOIN' TO BURN ME!
WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE FIRE YET, LEO!
POW!
POW
PART TWO
THE STARING MOON SHINES A SINISTER SPOTLIGHT ON THE THORN--AS SHE BATTLES TO WREST HER YOUTHFUL COMPANION FROM THE BLAZING GAUNTLET OF GANGLAND'S GUNS IN THE RIVERSIDE CAR JUNKYARD..UNDER THE CONCEALMENT OF ERUPTING SMOKE-THORNS!
THORN--THE 100 FORCED ME TO TURN TRIGGER-MAN! THEY'VE GOT MY MOM AS INSURANCE! A HOSTAGE! IN THEIR GAMBLIN' CASINO BARGE!
I KNEW YOU WEREN'T A REAL KILLER, LEO! THAT'S THE 100'S WAY--PLAYING WITH A STACKED DECK FOR HUMAN LIVES!
KPOW
KPOW
BAM
BAM
ROSE and the THORN
in
ROCK AND ROSE
N-213

ESCAPING THE MURDEROUS MOBSTERS, THE THORN LASHES OUT AT THE LAST BARRIER OF HIRED KILLERS IN HER WAY... AND LIKE A WHIRLING WRAITH...
THE 100'LL PAY DOUBLE FOR THIS CONTRACT-- UHH!
HERE'S A LAUGH FER YUH, KID-- OOW!
THE SYNDICATE TOSSED YOUR OLD MAN TO THE FUZZ... UGHH!
FOR FLOPPIN' HIS LAST ASSIGNMENT UNNH!
NOW WE'RE GONNA DUMP YOU FOR FAILIN' TO HIT THE THORN-- URRGH!
LIKE FATHER-- LIKE SON-- HA-HA-H- UGHNNN--

AS SCORCHING SLUGS HEAT UP THE CHILL WATER...
VAUPPP
TSHNNG
ZING
WE'VE GOT TO STAY UNDER-WATER AS LONG AS POSSIBLE... UNTIL WE'RE OUT OF RANGE OF THE KILLERS ON THE DOCK!
SWEPT DOWNRIVER BY THE CURRENT, THE IMPERILED PAIR FINALLY EMERGES WITH BURSTING LUNGS... INTO THE BLINDING GLARE OF A SEARCHLIGHT...
GASP-- GASP! THE ORGANIZATIONS EVERYWHERE! GASP! WE'RE NAILED!
I CAN'T MOVE A MUSCLE! CRAMP'S TWISTIN' ME IN KNOTS! SAVE YOURSELF, THORN!
I'M NOT LEAVING YOU, LEO!
AFTER I TRIED TO COOL YOU? GASP! DON'T TOSS AWAY YOUR LIFE FOR ME-- I AIN'T WORTH IT!
I HAD A HUNCH YOU WERE THE TARGET OF THOSE SHOTS, THORN! TAKE MY HAND!
IT AIN'T THE 100-- IT'S THE FUZZ!
LEO FIRST, DETECTIVE STONE! HE'S NUMB WITH CRAMPS!
POLICE
AS POLICE LIFT THE YOUTH INTO THE PATROL BOAT-- THE DETECTIVE'S HEART BEATS IN A STRANGE RHYTHM AT THE TINGLING TOUCH OF THE HUNTRESS' HAND...
WHY DO I FEEL LIKE THIS AT THE TOUCH OF YOUR HAND? AS IF-- AS IF IT'S FAMILIAR? ACTUALLY, I KNOW NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT YOU!
I--I DON'T KNOW!
IT HAS TO DO WITH MY OTHER LIFE... THE ONE I CAN'T FULLY RECALL!
3

THE SIREN OF THE SHADOWS BREAKS THE ENIGMATIC EMOTION BINDING HER AND THE PUZZLED DETECTIVE...
THORN--
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
MORE OF THE 100'S GUNS ARE OUT THERE!
BACK INTO THE NIGHT...
WHERE I BELONG...
FARE-WELL...
THE THORN RACES AWAY FROM THE CLUTCHING FINGERS OF DAWN... TO THE CONCEALMENT OF THE ABANDONED BROWN-STONE... WHERE HER SLEEPING PSYCHE CHANGES INTO HER DUAL SELF.. AWAKENING AS THE GENTLE ROSE FORREST... WHOLLY UNAWARE OF HER SPLIT-PERSONALITY--
THE THORN!
CONTINUED ON 2 SF PAGE FOLLOWING!
4

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AT THE RIVERVIEW CHAPEL AFTER WORK, ROSE UNKNOWINGLY IS CAUGHT IN FATE'S MOST TWISTED STRAND...
DINNER AND THEATRE TONIGHT, ROSE?
SORRY, MR. ADAMS! DETECTIVE STONE'S TAKING ME TO THE ROCK CONCERT IN METROPOLIS PARK!
DANNY WAS MY FATHER'S PARTNER BEFORE ...DAD WAS KILLED BY THE 100!
ON A SECRET LINE, A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
GIVE OUT THE CONTRACT ON DETECTIVE STONE! THIS TIME...DON'T MISS! HE'LL BE AT THE ROCK CONCERT TONIGHT WITH MY SECRETARY! BE SURE SHE ISN'T HURT!
THAT EVENING, THE VAST PARK THROBS WITH A CLAMOROUS BEAT...
DON'T LOOK SO DOWNBEAT, LEO! YOU'RE BETTER OFF BUNKING WITH ME--THAN AT JUVENILE HOUSE!
LEO'S WORRIED ABOUT HIS MOTHER, DANNY! BUT THE POLICE WILL FIND HER AS SOON AS THEY GET A SEARCH WARRANT!
SUDDENLY...
WITH THE RACKET THAT ROCK'S MAKIN'-- NO ONE'LL HEAR THESE SILENCED RODS GO OFF IN YOUR FACE, DANNY-BOY!
COUNTIN' LEO-- WE'LL COLLECT ON A DOUBLE HIT!
EVEN THE GENTLE ROSE IS UNAWARE OF THE RIPPLES OF RAGE RACING ACROSS HER FACE--AS HER SUBCONSCIOUS SPLIT-PERSONALITY--THE THORN--SURGES TO THE SURFACE...
LET ME OUT...
ONLY I CAN HANDLE THESE HOODS!
5

A SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE THE COUGH OF THE LETHAL WEAPONS...
ROSE--?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THEY'RE KILLERS!
YOU DUMPED THOSE HOODS LIKE A REGULAR BATGIRL... OR THE THORN!
I...I DID? AND I THOUGHT I'D FORGOTTEN THE KARATE AND JUDO DAD TAUGHT ME!
THE DOLL'S FLIPPED! THE WRAPS ARE OFF! SHE GETS IT, TOO!
NOW!
BUT THE GUNMEN ARE UNEXPECTEDLY ASSAILED BY A TIDAL WAVE OF HIPPIES AND FLOWER CHILDREN ROLLING OVER THEM--
DON'T RAISE YOUR HAND AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR!
WING WITH THE MUSIC!
TURN OFF YOUR VIOLENCE KICK!
TURN YOUR HEART ON--NOT OFF!
IF THIS IS NON-VIOLENCE, I PREFER COPS! OW!

AS PARK POLICE LEAD THE GUNMEN AWAY...
ROSE AND LEO ARE GONE! SHE MUST HAVE TAKEN THE BOY WITH HER TO A SAFE SPOT!
I'LL GO TO HEADQUARTERS TO QUIZ THESE HOODS!
BUT, LATER, THE PSCHIC PHENOMEN THAT TURNS ON ROSE'S UNCONSCIOUS DUEL SELF--THE THORN--MERGES WITH THE MISTS OF NIGHT IN HER TIRELESS QUEST AGAINST EVIL...
THE WILD WRAITH'S SPLIT-MEMORY RECALLS ONLY DIMLY HER LIFE AS ROSE...AND AFTER SWIMMING DOWN THE FOGGY RIVER...
THE GAMBLING CASINO ON WHICH LEO SAID HIS MOTHER WAS BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY THE IOO! IT'S DARK--BUT I'LL SEARCH IT ANYWAY!
SUDDENLY BLINDED BY A SPOTLIGHT AS SHE CLIMBS ONTO THE DECK...
YOU'RE TRAPPED, THORN! ONE FALSE MOVE--AND YOU'LL BE SQUASHED WITH LEAD!
LEO WALKED INTO THE SAME TRAP YOU DID--LOOKIN' FOR HIS OLD LADY!
I'LL GIVE YOU TO THE COUNT OF THREE TO GIVE ME YOUR THORN BELT--
--WITH ALL ITS GIMMICKS--BEFORE I BLAST 'EM!
ONE! TWO! TH--
DON'T HARM THEM--PLEASE! HERE!
YOU'RE SURE DIZZY TO GIVE UP YOUR HARDWARE TO SAVE SOMEONE ELSE!
NOW--YOU'RE GONNA JOIN 'EM IN THAT LIFEBOAT! BEFORE WE FILL IT WITH CONCRETE--AND SINK IT!
7

LIKE UNLEASHED LIGHTNING, THE SINISTER LORELEI LASHES THE STUNNED KILLERS...
SOCKKK
CRACK
MY BELT CAN'T BE REMOVED--WITHOUT ACTIVATING EVERY WEAPON ON IT!
--EXCEPT BY PRESSING A HIDDEN CONTROL!

QUICKLY RELEASING THE GRATEFUL PRISONERS AS A POLICE BOAT CUTS THROUGH THE WATERS TOWARDS THEM...
HOW CAN I THANK YOU? I'LL DO ANY-THIN'!
LISTEN TO YOUR MOTHER! AND DETECTIVE STONE! THEY'LL SEE THAT YOU GROW UP TO BE A REAL MAN!
TRUST IN THEM--NOT A GUN!

AND SO--ANOTHER CYCLONIC CHAPTER CLOSES ON THE NIGHTMARE-HAUNTED **THORN!**

AS FAST AS I ELIMINATE THE 100'S HOODS--
THEY RECRUIT MORE! BUT I'LL KEEP ON HUNTING THEM--UNTIL I FIND THE MURDERERS OF MY FATHER!
AND THE ONE WHO ORDERED HIS DEATH!

NEXT ISSUE, **THE THORN** TEAMS WITH LOIS AND **SUPERMAN** IN A BOOK-LENGTH ADVENTURE!

THE END.

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT JULY 22ND

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